

Introduced by Senator Corbett

February 21, 2008

An act to add Section 8898 to the Government Code, relating to seismic safety standards, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1508, as introduced, Corbett. Seismic safety standards: cripple walls.

Existing law requires the State Architect, in consultation with designated entities, to develop seismic retrofit guidelines and standards for buildings, as specified, with concrete or reinforced masonry column or wall construction. Under existing law, the California Earthquake Authority is required to establish an Earthquake Loss Mitigation Fund to provide funding for homeowners to retrofit their residences to protect against earthquake damage.

This bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development, in consultation with designated entities, to develop guidelines and standards prior to January 1, 2010, for seismic repairs of cripple walls of residential buildings, as defined, and to publish a commentary explaining the guidelines and standards by that date. The bill would require the California Building Standards Commission to adopt, approve, codify, and publish the guidelines and standards in the California Building Standards Code prior to July 1, 2011, and to submit them to the International Code Council on or prior to August 1, 2011. The bill would also require the Contractors' State License Board to adopt a training and testing program prior to August 1, 2011, for a specialty license classification for the seismic retrofit of cripple walls. The bill would appropriate an unspecified amount from the Earthquake

Loss Mitigation Fund to the department for the purposes of developing the seismic retrofit guidelines and standards.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 8898 is added to the Government Code,
2 to read:

3 8898. (a) The Department of Housing and Community
4 Development shall develop guidelines and standards, prior to
5 January 1, 2010, for the seismic retrofit of cripple walls of
6 residential buildings of wood frame construction. The department
7 shall develop these guidelines and standards in consultation with
8 the Division of the State Architect, the California Building
9 Standards Commission, the Contractors' State License Board, the
10 California Council of the American Institute of Architects, the
11 California Building Officials, the International Code Council, the
12 Structural Engineers Association of California, the Seismic Safety
13 Commission, the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, the
14 League of California Cities, the Association of Bay Area
15 Governments, and other organizations that have previously worked
16 on committees to develop similar retrofit provisions.

17 (b) The sum of ____ dollars (\$____) is hereby appropriated
18 from the Earthquake Loss Mitigation Fund to the Department of
19 Housing and Community Development to complete the duties
20 described in this section. The department may expend the money
21 appropriated to it for the costs of retaining professionals in the
22 engineering field to develop the guidelines and standards, as well
23 as for travel and other necessary expenses for committee members
24 developing and reviewing those guidelines and standards, and may
25 retain 10 percent of the funds appropriated to it for administrative
26 expenses relating to its duties under this section.

27 (c) Prior to January 1, 2010, the Department of Housing and
28 Community Development shall publish a commentary explaining
29 the seismic retrofit guidelines and standards and their use, and
30 shall submit the seismic retrofit standards to the California Building
31 Standards Commission. The department shall also make the
32 standards available to other interested parties upon their request.

1 (d) Prior to July 1, 2011, the California Building Standards
2 Commission shall adopt, approve, codify, and publish by reference
3 in the California Building Standards Code the seismic retrofit
4 guidelines and standards developed pursuant to this section.

5 (e) Prior to August 1, 2011, the California Building Standards
6 Commission shall submit the seismic retrofit guidelines and
7 standards to the International Code Council for consideration and
8 adoption into model codes, as defined in Section 18916 of the
9 Health and Safety Code.

10 (f) Prior to August 1, 2011, the Contractors' State License Board
11 shall adopt by regulation a training and testing program for a
12 specialty license classification for performing the seismic retrofit
13 of cripple walls.

14 (g) The following definitions apply for purposes of this section:

15 (1) "In consultation with" means the meaningful and open
16 solicitation of suggestions, ideas, and comments, and the response
17 to these suggestions, ideas, and comments, and the opportunity to
18 participate in meetings by the organizations named in this section.
19 Consultation shall include consideration of what constitutes seismic
20 deficiencies and the appropriate measures to correct the
21 deficiencies.

22 (2) "Seismic retrofit for cripple walls of residential buildings
23 of wood frame construction" means retrofitting or reconstruction
24 of an existing building or structure to significantly reduce structural
25 collapse due to inadequate connections between the wood frame
26 building or structure and the foundation, inadequately braced
27 cripple walls, and lack of connections between these cripple walls
28 and the first floor of the building or structure.